

LEOMINSTER AND WIGMORE  
RURAL DISTRICT  
HEREFORDSHIRE

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# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

## State of the Public Health

For the Year 1943

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# Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health ... .. H. F. GREEN, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.  
(On War Service from 17/7/42)

Acting Medical Officer of Health I. F. MACKENZIE, M.B., Ch.B.,  
(Deputy County Medical Officer) D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.  
(Private Tel., Weobley 59).

Area Medical Offices : 4, Church Street, Leominster (Tel., Leom. 95)

Clerk in Northern Area Medical B. J. SCANDRETT  
Office ... .. (On War Service from 1939)

Temporary Clerk ... .. MISS D. M. J. BRAMFITT

Sanitary Inspector ... .. G. E. BULL, M.S.L.A., C.R. San. I.  
Municipal Offices, Leominster (Tel., Leom. 257).

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To the Chairman and Members of the Leominster and Wigmore  
Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1943.

Throughout the year the health of the community has continued to be remarkably good and no major outbreaks of notifiable or non-notifiable disease occurred.

Your Sanitary Inspector and I maintain close co-operation on all matters affecting the health of the community. I am happy to acknowledge again my appreciation of the thorough manner in which he discharges the duties of his position, for this contributes, in no small measure, to the effective execution, under war-time conditions, of the Health Services of the Council.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

I. F. MACKENZIE,  
*Acting Medical Officer.*

June, 1944.

## SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:

Area (in Acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,4101
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1943) according to the Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,941
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£14,832
Sum represented by a Penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£185

### EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR:

BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.9
STILLBIRTH RATE (per 1,000 Live and Still births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	32.1
DEATH RATE (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.8
INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	55.2
MATERNAL MORTALITY: There were no deaths from maternal causes in 1943.							

### COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1943:—

Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.5
Still Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.5
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.1
Infantile Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	49.0

## SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA:

### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Laboratory facilities continued to be available at the County Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, which, for the duration of the war, is under the administration of the Medical Research Council.

### CLINICS.

There are none provided by the Authority. Under County Council Schemes there are two clinics operated within the Leominster Borough at which facilities are available for residents in the Rural District.

(a) A Tuberculosis Dispensary which is held on the first Friday in the month at 11 a.m. in the Cottage Hospital Annexe.

(b) A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre which is conducted each Friday at 2 p.m. in the Mission Hall, Etnam Street.

The nearest Venereal Diseases Clinic is at the County Council Hospital, Hereford.

An Orthopaedic After-Care Clinic, which is organised on a voluntary basis, is held in the Cottage Hospital Annexe.

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I am indebted to Mr. G. R. Bull, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following Statement (Sections C to E) furnished under Article 27 (Sub-Section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations. The explanatory comments are also his.

## **SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

**WATER :** Sampling. 48 samples of water were taken and analysed, 17 were submitted for bacterial examination and one for chemical. Of these, 23 were satisfactory and 25 unsatisfactory. The water supplies of the district are the same as mentioned in previous reports.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE :** Nothing of importance occurred during the year. With the exception of the parishes served by sewers the disposal of sewage is effected through septic tanks or by burial in earth.

**RIVERS AND STREAMS :** Two samples of water from the Teme at Leintwardine were taken. The results were satisfactory.

**REFUSE COLLECTIONS :** Refuse collection and disposal by tipping is carried out by the Authority in the parishes of Leintwardine, Wigmore and Kingsland with satisfactory results. In the remainder of the district individual householders make their own arrangements.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA : Inspections have been made under various Acts and Orders, including the Factories Acts, and under enactments governing meat and foods.

#### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

INSPECTIONS :	No. of Inspections	Informal Notices served	Statutory Notices served	Notices complied with
Housing and Public Health Acts	198	56	1	38
Factories	62	2	—	2
Milk and Dairies and Cow- sheds	262	22	—	22
Bakehouses	16	3	—	3
Food Premises	240	2	—	2
Schools	10	1	—	1
Water Supplies	48	25	—	25
Infectious Diseases	87	—	—	—
Knaekers Yard	13	1	—	1
Hop-Pickers' Quarters	8	—	—	—
Miscellaneous visits	1	1	—	1
	945	113	1	95

#### NOTICES ISSUED :

Informal	113
Statutory	Nil

#### DEFECTS REMEDIED :

The following list relates to major defects only, which were remedied or in connection with which repairs were carried out.

Roofs	17	Pantries provided	1
Dampness	7	Stairs repaired	2
Floors	9	Windows repaired	8
Drains	20	Baths fitted	4
Wells	25	Cesspools constructed	4
New Sinks fitted	6	Conversion of privies	7
Spouting repaired	7	Wash coppers repaired	4
Plastered	12	Chimneys repaired	6

FACTORIES: 62 Inspections have been made at the two Factories with mechanical power and at those without mechanical power in the district. The factories without mechanical power are small, generally only two or three persons being employed. On the whole the regulations are carried out satisfactorily. The two notices served during the year were for linewashing.

CAMPING SITES: There are no registered camping sites in the district. Where camping does occur it is only for a short period.

BED BUGS: There were no cases of bed bug infection reported during the year.

## SECTION D. HOUSING.

### INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts ... 117
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 168
2. Number of dwelling houses found not to be, in all respects, reasonably fit for human habitation ... 56

### ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

#### Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 1
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices
  - (a) By Owners ... 1
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... Nil

### VAN DWELLINGS.

There are only four van dwellings in the district; these are situated in Abbey Lane, Leintwardine. Each has its own water supply and drainage.

## SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

230 inspections were made at the various food shops in the district. Four notices were served for timewashing and these were complied with.

Condemned as Unfit for human consumption :—

Meat	1 cwt. 11 lbs.	Cheese	1 cwt. 100 lbs.
Tinned Meat	57 lbs.	Fish	1 cwt. 3 lbs.
Tinned Vegetables	6 lbs.	Apples	1 cwt. 6 lbs.
Tinned Milk	6 lbs.	Tea	1 cwt. 6 lbs.
Oranges	75 lbs.	Cakes	1 cwt. 10 lbs.
Eggs	Nil	Dates	1 cwt. 80 lbs.
Butter	60 lbs.	Syrup	1 cwt. 2 lbs.
Bacon	80 lbs.		

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Central slaughtering is carried out at the Borough of Leamington Slaughter House. For this reason very little meat is condemned in this district.

87 inspections and re-inspections were made in connection with infectious disease, and disinfection was carried out at 46 houses.

## SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASE DURING THE YEAR :

During 1943 a total of 218 notifications of Infectious Disease were received. Measles provided the largest number, namely 101; and the second highest figure was in respect of whooping cough, of which there were 42 cases in the district during the year. There were 32 cases of Scarlet Fever, none of Diphtheria and none of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis. Puerperal Pyrexia was notified on one occasion only.

The fifteen cases of Dysentery which were notified were all of the mild Sonne type. A small proportion of persons in the community are symptomless carriers who harbour the organism in the Intestinal Tract. Contamination of foodstuffs by these carriers and by people suffering from the disease occurs very easily if personal hygiene is not carefully attended to.

# ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES ACCORDING TO AGE.

DISEASE	AGE OF PATIENT														Over 15		Total
	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70-80	
Measles	...	2	1	7	5	6	11	10	24	21	6	1	3	—	1	—	101
Pneumonia	...	—	—	1	—	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	8	—	—	21
Whooping Cough	...	2	1	4	2	7	3	4	14	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	42
Scarlet Fever	...	1	—	1	—	3	1	3	3	16	3	—	1	—	—	—	32
Erysipelas	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	—	—	6
Dysentery	...	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	2	1	—	1	—	1	6	—	15
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The state of Immunisation of the child population of the district at the end of 1913 is indicated in the table below

Under 5 years of age		Between 5 and 15 years of age	
Number	Percentage of group	Number	Percentage of group
265	31.5%	2,019	65.2%

## TUBERCULOSIS.

At the end of 1913 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of 37 males and 25 females who normally reside within the district.

During the year 24 new cases were notified, 19 on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and five because of the presence of the disease in parts of the body other than the lungs.

During the same period, six deaths of persons suffering from Tuberculosis occurred.

## CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages).

DISEASE	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis	4	2	6
Influenza	4	1	5
Cancer (all forms)	10	6	16
Heart and Blood Vessels	34	33	67
Bronchitis and Pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases	13	3	16
Acute Enteritis	6	1	7
Diseases of Digestive System	1	4	5
Nephritis	3	3	6
Congenital conditions (infants)	2	2	4
Violence	8	1	9
Other causes	5	7	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>147</b>